

California State Journal of Medicine

Owned and Published Monthly by the

Medical Society of the State of California

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Butler Building,
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VOL. XIII NOVEMBER, 1915 No. 11

EDITORIAL NOTES

THIS REALLY HAPPENED.

As you know, it is customary for detail men when they visit your office to ask for one of your cards. This they send to the home office as confirmatory evidence of the fact that they have called upon you. A certain detail man called upon a certain surgeon in a certain city, and as per custom, departed with one of the surgeon's cards. It was inscribed "John Doe, M.D., F.A.C.S." The detail man then called upon another physician with whom he was well acquainted, and in the course of conversation said he had "met up with a new one." Thereupon he brought out the card of John Doe and, pointing to the mystic letters, "F.A.C.S." said: "Is Dr. John Doe a Christian Scientist?" There are occasional bright spots in a world otherwise filled with gloom and conflict!

ON CRITICISM.

Some thoughts on criticism in general have been suggested by the fact that a number of people in Sacramento have more or less heatedly taken the editor to task for an editorial note which appeared in the JOURNAL, criticizing the policy of a city in turning out a full-time health officer, and presumably a well-trained one, as he was, we understand, picked in competitive examination. The point is that the editor was attacked for publishing certain criticism; there was no discussion of the *thing criticized*! If one is to be personally attacked for uttering words of criticism, it would seem logical to show first that the *thing criticized* is essentially right and that hence the critical words were improperly used. If a criticism is *just*, it is no argument against it to berate the critic. If it can

be shown that it is *not* just, then the critic should most certainly be taken to task for his improper and unwarranted use of critical words. It may be conceded that no one likes to be criticized and that when anything *is* criticized, someone is sure to be offended thereby, either rightly or wrongly. If no one and nothing was ever criticized; if errors and mistakes and misdemeanors were never pointed out, what a chaotic world we would live in, and how impossible life would become! One offended person who offered no single argument against the justice of the attitude of the critic, said that it was not the matter but the language that was objectionable. How can anything be criticized in language that is unobjectionable? And furthermore, if a thing is to be justly criticized, should not the language be as clear, as direct, as forcible as is possible, in order that the thought may be carried home and easily assimilated by the reader? It would seem so. This JOURNAL, since its very first issue, has criticized many things and has stirred up many rows. But it has not been entirely destructive; it has been constructive as well, and in nearly every instance where such criticism has been made, some constructive suggestion has been offered. The constructive side of the criticism in the case of the Sacramento incident, was in supporting the sound sociological principle that the health of a community is best secured by having a full-time, well-trained health officer; one who has no divided duty and does not serve two masters. What "the college" will become, no one knows; but there was a constructive side to the criticism of "the college" when it was formed. The argument on that was, that the good desired could be more surely secured by working through existing and permanent educational channels; that a personal and proprietary educational enterprise is an anachronism; that it is against the trend of educational development. Time alone will show the right or the wrong of this particular thing. To attack the editor does not alter the right or the wrong of the thing mentioned. It is often discouraging to have personalities injected into a discussion of things or conditions as such. And it certainly is much easier to go through life openly admitting that all things are possible and that everybody is right!

FRAUDS IN MEDICINE; LEARN ABOUT THEM.

The price list of the various books and pamphlets relating to frauds and fakes in medicine, quacks, quackery, fake cures, fake springs and the like is issued by the American Medical Association and may be had for the asking. Send for a copy and note the range of subjects which the Propaganda Department of the Association has covered in these publications. Most of them cost but a few cents and are really sold at approximately the cost of publication. Quite frequently we are asked about this or that fraud or fake undertaking or the like; practically all of them have been written up by the Association and can be had in pamphlet form. Send for this price list, which is really a catalog of the various fakes and frauds exposed.